

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**IN RE: INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING
SECURITIES LITIGATION**

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**MEMORANDUM
OPINION AND ORDER**

**MASTER FILE NO. 21 MC 92
(SAS)**

X

SHIRA A. SCHEINDLIN, U.S.D.J.:

I. INTRODUCTION

On June 17, 2010, this Court ordered the fifty-eight Objectors¹ in this action to post a \$25,000 bond pending appeal to cover taxable costs pursuant to Rule 7 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure (the “June 17 Opinion”).² Each Objector is jointly and severally liable for the bond.³ On June 25, 2010, Theodore Bechtold, counsel for the Bechtold Objectors, filed a motion for reconsideration on behalf of his clients. For the following reasons, Bechtold’s motion is denied.

¹ All capitalized terms refer to those defined in the June 17 Opinion. See *In re Initial Public Offering Sec. Litig.*, No. 21 MC 92, 2010 WL 2505677 (S.D.N.Y. June 17, 2010).

² See *id.* at *5.

³ See *id.*

II. APPLICABLE LAW

Motions for reconsideration are governed by Local Rule 6.3 and are committed to the sound discretion of the district court.⁴ A motion for reconsideration is appropriate where “the moving party can point to controlling decisions or data that the court overlooked – matters, in other words, that might reasonably be expected to alter the conclusion reached by the court.”⁵ A motion for reconsideration may also be granted to “correct a clear error or prevent manifest injustice.”⁶

The purpose of Local Rule 6.3 is to “ensure the finality of decisions and to prevent the practice of a losing party examining a decision and then plugging the gaps of a lost motion with additional matters.”⁷ Local Rule 6.3 must

⁴ See *Patterson v. United States*, No. 04 Civ. 3140, 2006 WL 2067036, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. July 26, 2006) (“The decision to grant or deny a motion for reconsideration is within the sound discretion of the district court.”) (citing *McCarthy v. Manson*, 714 F.2d 234, 237 (2d Cir. 1983)).

⁵ *In re BDC 56 LLC*, 330 F.3d 111, 123 (2d Cir. 2003) (quotation omitted).

⁶ *RST (2005) Inc. v. Research in Motion Ltd.*, No. 07 Civ. 3737, 2009 WL 274467, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 4, 2009) (quoting *Virgin Atl. Airways, Ltd. v. National Mediation Bd.*, 956 F.2d 1245, 1255 (2d Cir. 1992)).

⁷ *Grand Crossing, L.P. v. United States Underwriters Ins. Co.*, No. 03 Civ. 5429, 2008 WL 4525400, at *3 (S.D.N.Y. Oct. 6, 2008) (quoting *S.E.C. v. Ashbury Capital Partners*, No. 00 Civ. 7898, 2001 WL 604044, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. May 31, 2001)). *Accord Commerce Funding Corp. v. Comprehensive Habilitation*

be “narrowly construed and strictly applied so as to avoid repetitive arguments on issues that have been considered fully by the Court.”⁸ Courts have repeatedly been forced to warn counsel that such motions should not be made reflexively to reargue “those issues already considered when a party does not like the way the original motion was resolved.”⁹ A motion for reconsideration is not an “opportunity for making new arguments that could have been previously advanced,”¹⁰ nor is it a substitute for appeal.¹¹

III. DISCUSSION

Bechtold has not presented any matters that might reasonably be expected to alter this Court’s June 17 Opinion. Bechtold has not cited any controlling decisions that contradict this Court’s imposition of the bond and has

Servs., Inc., 233 F.R.D. 355, 361 (S.D.N.Y. 2005) (“[A] movant may not raise on a motion for reconsideration any matter that it did not raise previously to the court on the underlying motion sought to be reconsidered.”).

⁸ *United States v. Treacy*, No. 08 CR 366, 2009 WL 47496, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 8, 2009) (quotation marks omitted). *Accord Shrader v. CSX Transp. Inc.*, 70 F.3d 255, 257 (2d Cir. 1995) (holding that a court will deny the motion when the movant “seeks solely to relitigate an issue already decided”).

⁹ *Makas v. Orlando*, No. 06 Civ. 14305, 2008 WL 2139131, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. May 19, 2008) (quoting *In re Houbigant, Inc.*, 914 F. Supp. 997, 1001 (S.D.N.Y. 1996)).

¹⁰ *Associated Press v. United States Dep’t of Defense*, 395 F. Supp. 2d 17, 19 (S.D.N.Y. 2005).

¹¹ See *Grand Crossing*, 2008 WL 4525400, at *3.

not pointed to any evidence that this Court overlooked. Instead, he quarrels with this Court's conclusions that he holds personal animus towards the IPO Executive Committee, he is a serial objector, or has otherwise acted in bad faith.¹² Bechtold also contends that this Court erroneously concluded that the Bechtold Objectors failed to present evidence that they are financially unable to post a bond.¹³ However, he does not identify any evidence in the record supporting his assertion or any new evidence that would suggest that requiring his clients to post this bond would create a manifest injustice.¹⁴ As a result, there is no reason for me to revisit my June 17 Opinion.

Bechtold also claims that his clients are now discouraged from pursuing their appeal in the face of posting a \$25,000 bond because some (or all) may be entitled to no more than ten dollars in recovery.¹⁵ He asks, “[w]hy would any rational person be willing to put at risk thousands or even hundreds of Dollars”

¹² See Bechtold Objectors' Motion Requesting Reconsideration of Order Requiring Appeal Bond (“Bechtold Mem.”) at 1-5.

¹³ See *id.* at 5.

¹⁴ I note that even if Bechtold had submitted new evidence of his clients' inability to pay, this Court would not have been obligated to consider it, as any such evidence could have been submitted in response to the initial motion for a Rule 7 bond.

¹⁵ See Bechtold Mem. at 5-6.

when he or she is entitled to only a fraction of that amount under the terms of the settlement.¹⁶ Bechtold's assertion implies that it is the *Court* that has subjected his clients to this "risk" by ordering them to post a Rule 7 bond. Yet, this is a "risk" that Bechtold's clients assumed when they filed their notice of appeal – as do all appellants.

The \$25,000 Rule 7 bond I ordered in this case covers taxable costs. Taxable costs, as defined in Rule 39 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, are awarded to the successful party unless the law provides or the court orders otherwise (and assuming the prevailing party submits the requisite documentation).¹⁷ That means that if the Objectors are unsuccessful on appeal, there is a substantial likelihood that they will be required to pay some amount approximating \$25,000 to cover the IPO Executive Committee's costs in defending the appeal. Requiring Objectors to post a \$25,000 bond pending the resolution of the appeal does no more than ensure that the IPO Executive Committee's costs are paid. It creates no additional "risk" because if the Objectors are successful, then their \$25,000 will be returned. Similarly, if the IPO Executive Committee's costs are less than \$25,000, then the Objectors are repaid the difference.

¹⁶ *Id.* at 6.

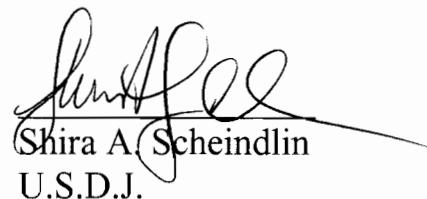
¹⁷ See Fed. R. App. P. 39(a), (d).

Finally, although this Court does not believe that a clarification is necessary, the Court reaffirms that *all* Objectors must *collectively* post a single \$25,000 bond. It is not the case that each Objector must individually post a bond for \$25,000 (although the Court recognizes the possibility – however remote – that one Objector conceivably could be liable for the entire amount if the other fifty-seven Objectors refused to comply with this Court’s order). It is for the Objectors to determine how much each must post.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Bechtold’s motion for reconsideration is denied. The Clerk of the Court is directed to close this motion (Docket No. [undocketed] in action 21 MC 92).

SO ORDERED:



Shira A. Scheindlin
U.S.D.J.

Dated: June 28, 2010
New York, New York

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